

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of determining resource placement, comprising:
2 determining a set of business objectives [[for]] suitable for assessing each of a plurality of
3 ~~one or more~~ candidate locations for resource placement;
4 developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;
5 performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives, thereby
6 determining what ~~types of~~ resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;
7 developing cost factors ~~pertaining to~~ for costs of placing the determined resources in the
8 candidate locations;
9 using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically
10 ~~compute~~ computing a value for each of the candidate locations using the business objectives,
11 according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors; ~~[[, and]]~~
12 using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to using the
13 ~~programmatically-computed value to~~ programmatically select a particular location from among
14 the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-computed values; and
15 assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular location.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the programmatically
2 computing the value for each of the candidate locations further comprises estimating and
3 accounting for any lag time characteristics discovered while performing the value chain analyses.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned
2 resources are information technology personnel.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the assigned
2 resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.

Claims 22 - 27 (canceled)

1 Claim 28 (currently amended): A system for assigning resources, comprising:
2 a computer comprising a processor;
3 a set of business objectives suitable for assessing each of a plurality of ~~one or more~~
4 candidate locations for resource placement;
5 one or more objective measurements for each business objective;
6 results of value chain analyses performed related to the set of business objectives, the
7 results usable for determining what ~~types of~~ resources will potentially improve the analyzed value
8 chain;
9 cost factors ~~pertaining to~~ for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate
10 locations;
11 instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement
12 functions comprising:
13 programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations[[,]] using

the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors; and

using the programmatically-computed value to programmatically select a particular location from among the candidate locations, based on the programmatically-computed values, thereby enabling assignment of the determined resources for placement in the programmatically-selected particular location.

Claims 29 - 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (new): The method according to Claim 18, wherein programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations further comprises:

determining an importance value for each of the business objectives;

determining, for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations, a location-score reflecting how well the candidate location meets the business objective;

computing a gap value for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations by subtracting the location-specific score for the business objective from the importance value for the business objective; and

for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap value for each of the business objectives in the candidate location, and the developed cost factors, to yield a cost of placing the resource in the candidate location.

Claim 33 (new): The method according to Claim 32, wherein programmatically selecting a

particular location based on the programmatically-computed values further comprises selecting the location for which the cost of placing the resource in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 34 (new): The system according to Claim 28, wherein programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations further comprises:

determining an importance value for each of the business objectives;

determining, for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations, a location-score reflecting how well the candidate location meets the business objective;

computing a gap value for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations by subtracting the location-specific score for the business objective from the importance value for the business objective; and

for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap value for each of the business objectives in the candidate location, and the developed cost factors, to yield a cost of placing the resource in the candidate location.

Claim 35 (new): The system according to Claim 34, wherein programmatically selecting a particular location based on the programmatically-computed values further comprises selecting the location for which the cost of placing the resource in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 36 (new): A computer program product for determining resource placement, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-usable storage media and comprising computer-usable program code for:

4 programmatically computing a value for each of a plurality of candidate locations using a
5 set of business objectives suitable for assessing each of the plurality of candidate locations for
6 resource placement, according to one or more objective measurements developed for each
7 business objective, and cost factors developed for costs of placing resources in the candidate
8 locations, the resources determined by performing value chain analyses related to the set of
9 business objectives to identify what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;
10 and

11 programmatically selecting a particular location from among the candidate locations,
12 based on the programmatically-computed values, for assigning the determined resources.

1 Claim 37 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein
2 programmatically computing a value for each of the candidate locations further comprises:

3 determining an importance value for each of the business objectives;
4 determining, for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate locations, a
5 location-score reflecting how well the candidate location meets the business objective;
6 computing a gap value for each of the business objectives in each of the candidate
7 locations by subtracting the location-specific score for the business objective from the importance
8 value for the business objective; and
9 for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap value for each of the business
10 objectives in the candidate location, and the developed cost factors, to yield a cost of placing the
11 resource in the candidate location.

1 Claim 38 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 37, wherein
2 programmatically selecting a particular location based on the programmatically-computed values
3 further comprises selecting the location for which the cost of placing the resource in the candidate
4 location is lowest.